

GERMANS CLOSING ON RIGA; CZAR IN CHARGE OF ARMY

Emperor Assumes Command
When Battle for City Takes
Decisive Turn.

MOSCOW MAY BE CAPITAL

Ruler and Grand Duke May
Have Broken Defeat of
Their Forces.

AERIAL ATTACKS INCESSANT

German Pressure on Land and Sea
Also Growing Tense—They
Gain in South.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Sept. 7.—On the eve of a decisive battle for Riga, Emperor Nicholas has assumed personal command of the Russian armies.

His action has caused no less surprise here than it is reported to have caused in Petrograd, where no intimation has been given that the czar was about to take charge at the front. The fact that the Emperor had assumed the role of commander-in-chief first became known through the publication of messages exchanged between him and President Poincaré of France, in which the Russian ruler advised his ally of his purpose.

Break with Duke Possible.

Opinion here is divided on what the action of the czar forecasts. No hint has been given of a break between the Emperor and the Grand Duke Nicholas, commander of the Russian armies. It is not yet known whether the grand duke is to be eliminated, although it is hardly believed likely, as he wields a tremendous power in Russia and is the idol of the soldiers.

Announcement that the czar would go to the front leads to the view in some quarters that the czar's action is merely another way of saying that the seat of government will be removed from Petrograd, probably to Moscow. His entire ministry will follow the czar to whatever place he makes his headquarters, making it the seat of government in effect, if not in name.

Official dispatches tonight indicate that the German pressure about Riga is increasing and decisive events are looked for within a short time. Hindenburg so far has been unable to cross the Dvina, the Russian artillery fire making it too hazardous to attempt to throw pontoons across the river, and it is believed that the Germans are waiting for their heavy artillery to be brought up before attempting to bridge the wide and rapid stream.

In the meantime, German cavalry had advanced on Daugavpils, southeast of Friedland, and the German lines have been extended along the river. Meanwhile, German seaplane operations in the Gulf of Riga are reported to be incessant and dispatches also tell of treaty activity by German warships in the Baltic and near the entrance to the Gulf, straddling a combined sea, air and land attack on the port city.

Russian Resistance Gives Way.
While Riga continues the point of greatest interest on the eastern front, important successes of the Austro-Germans in the southeast on the front east of Brody, are reported by Vienna.

According to an official announcement tonight, the Russian resistance has been broken on a front of twenty-five miles and the defeated Slavs are being pursued, having lost a number of prisoners and a quantity of war material.

These operations which, with those of Von Mackensen in the Loutsk district, aim at the reduction of Doubo and Rovno, are rapidly bringing the Teutons within striking distance of the fort.

Berlin places much importance on the fight west of Wolkowysk, where on a front of about thirty-five miles, the armies of Prince Leopold are reported to have caught up to the retreating Russians and engaged them in a general battle.

The entire German campaign, in the view of military observers here, now aim at winning control of the railway system from Riga to Lemberg, thus solving the transportation problem, which is believed to be becoming serious for their armies.

This campaign is believed to contemplate the occupation of Riga, to which point supplies could be brought by sea, and be resolved itself into gigantic movements, one striking northward between Grodo and Plakes and another southward on the Rovno triangle.

YOU CAN GIVE TIPS NOW.

United States Government Puts Official O. K. on Practice.

The United States government has officially given approval to the practice of "tipping" servants. In a decision handed down yesterday the Comptroller of the Treasury passed a voucher involving the sum of \$5 paid by an official on an ocean-going vessel to room and table stewards who served him.

Columbia Theater today, 12 noon, continuous, "The Heart of Jeanne," 8:15, 10:15.

GERMAN ARMEN BOMB BRITISH

Brief Announcement Tells of Another Visitation by Aircraft.

London, Sept. 7.—The official press bureau announced tonight that German aircraft visited the Eastern counties of England last night and dropped bombs which caused fires and several casualties.

Rome, Sept. 7.—Another aerial battle has taken place over Venice, the fifth bombardment of that port by Austrian aeroplanes since the war began.

Two Austrian airships began the attack by dropping bombs along the Lagoon and over the Italian forts. Italian aviators sighted the invaders and rose to the attack. After a sharp engagement, one of the Austrian aeroplanes was so crippled that it fell into the lagoon, where its two occupants were captured. The other aeroplane, though winged, succeeded in escaping.

PORT INSPECTORS WILL LOOK OUT FOR TYPHUS

Warning Issued by Public Health Service Because of Prevalence of Disease in Europe.

The Public Health and Marine Hospital Service issued a warning yesterday to all quarantine officers not to relax their efforts to prevent the introduction of typhus fever from Europe, simply because the epidemic abroad seems to be on the decrease. The health officers warn the quarantine agents not to assume too much because the insects which transmit the disease "predominantly go into winter quarters in summer."

Special instructions were given to keep a sharp lookout for the disease among passengers arriving from Greece and Italian ports. The Public Health Service bulletin says: "The overcrowding, lack of bathing facilities and general insanitary conditions brought about by the state of war in Europe have made the fiscal year 1914-15 a typhus year. The extensive outbreak which occurred in Austria-Hungary and Serbia is probably responsible for the introduction of the disease into Germany, but as immigration from these countries is at the present time practically nil, the government's sanitary corps considers passengers from Greece and Italy of greater potential menace. The disease has also been reported in Spain, at Zurich and St. Gall, in Switzerland, and in Russia."

New York, Sept. 7.—Forty-seven steerage passengers arriving today by the Italian liner America from Genoa, were detained at quarantine. The immigrants were suspected of carrying typhus and cholera germs.

PATCH BABIES' SPINES TO CURE RARE DISEASE

New York Surgeons Strengthen Tissue at Spot Where Spinal Cord Is Unprotected.

New York, Sept. 7.—A new operation for a rare infantile deformity is being used at Polyclinic Hospital for the first time in the history of neurological surgery. It was said today. It is for the removal of "spina bifida," an abnormality in the spinal cord of babies.

To be successful the operation must be made soon after birth. Five days is considered a favorable length of time to wait. Three babies which have been under the care of Dr. William Sharpe at the Polyclinic within the last week are respectively 3 weeks, 4 weeks and 1 month old.

Unless an operation is made very shortly after the birth of a child afflicted with "spina bifida," paralysis of the lower part of the body or a complete arrest of development results. Death is certain to follow shortly with the breaking of the spinal cord at the exposed spot.

TURKISH MINISTER STABBED.

Fathay Pasha Victim of Assassins, Cairo Dispatch Says.

London, Sept. 7.—A Cairo News dispatch from Cairo, which was delayed in transmission, states that an unsuccessful attempt was made on Saturday to assassinate Fathay Pasha, one of the Turkish ministers.

The assassin, who was a government official, stabbed the minister twice—once in the face and once in the arm.

The wounds are not considered serious.

117 ITALIAN TRANSPORTS SAIL.

Soldiers May Be on Their Way to Dardanelles.

Basle, Sept. 7.—The Munich Nueste Nachrichten states that 117 transports accompanied by sixteen warships, having aboard soldiers and munitions, have left Tarentum for an unknown destination. It is believed the expedition is destined for the Dardanelles.

The Duke of Aosta, commander-in-chief of the navy, witnessed the departure of the vessels.

KAISER IN QUARREL.

Ruler Angered Because Hindenburg Urged Peace with Russia.

Lausanne, Switzerland, Sept. 7.—The Berner Tagwacht learns, it says, from a German source that the Kaiser and Field Marshal von Hindenburg have quarreled because he urged separate peace with Russia, and that von Hindenburg would have been retired but for his popularity in Germany, the Kaiser fearing that such action would create a bad impression.

WILSON 'SHRINKS' FROM JERSEY O. K.

Would Be Embarrassed by
Hudson County Indorsement, Says Tumulty.

HALTS KINKEAD'S PLANS

President Does Not Want to Gain Personal Advantage by Extraordinary Situation Now Existing.

President Wilson has put a damper on the plans of Sheriff "Gene" Kinkead and other leaders of the Democracy of Hudson County, N. J., to turn the meeting of the county committee next Saturday into a Wilson ratification rally.

The President, through Secretary Tumulty, has informed the sheriff that while he appreciates the spirit animating those of his "personal friends" in his home State, who would indorse him for renomination, such action, if interpreted as having been inspired from the White House, might occasion the executive embarrassment.

Tumulty Uses Phrase.

Secretary Tumulty dictated the letter to his stenographer here by long distance telephone yesterday. It does not in any way suggest that the President would not accept a renomination if it is offered him. Nor does it explain the failure of the White House to sidetrack the second term indorsement of the Democratic State convention of Kentucky last week, nor a similar indorsement by the Democrats of the Tenth Congressional district in Wisconsin.

Letter to Kinkead.

The letter to Sheriff Kinkead was as follows:

"I received your letter inviting me to be present at the meeting of the Hudson County Democratic committee, scheduled for September 11, the object of which, as you state, is the indorsement of the President. It was my understanding when we discussed this matter some weeks ago that the meeting you had in mind was merely a meeting of the Hudson County committee, for which you were anxious to procure the services of Senator Lewis, of Illinois, as the speaker.

"I had a talk with the President about this matter, and he deeply appreciates the generosity of those suggestions, but New Jersey is his own State, the men who would act in this matter are his own personal friends, and he feels that it might seem as if he were taking advantage of the extraordinary situation now existing to gain some personal advantage through such an expression of confidence by them.

"He Shrinks from It."

"As I said in my letter to State Chairman Grosscup a year ago, this would be inconsistent with his whole thought and spirit and he shrinks from it as from something that would embarrass him rather than help him.

"I feel confident that you will understand the spirit in which he says this, and that in urging the Democrats of Hudson County not to do this he is not abating in the least his deep appreciation. Of course, if your meeting has no connection with an indorsement of the President and is one to be held under the auspices of the Democratic County committee and shall be participated in by all factions in Hudson County, I will gladly aid you in procuring as a speaker the services of either Senator James or Senator Lewis."

OFFENSIVE MAY BE THROUGH.

Lull in German Attack—Russians Get Ammunition.

Petrograd, Sept. 7.—The general lull confirms the opinion that the German offensive, for the moment at any rate, has spent its force. However, the feeling of the Russian army has changed. At the beginning of the long retreat the soldiers were unwilling to retire, especially as the greater number of retreats were caused by pressure far away, which the soldiers could neither feel nor understand.

Then the soldiers became accustomed to the retreat and began to look upon their retirement as the inevitable daily business.

Now there is a great change of spirit. Sufficient ammunition has enabled them once more to fight on equal terms and the whole army is fired by the belief that the retreat is coming to an end.

AUSTRIANS SLAY EMIGRANTS.

Italians Who Declined to Serve in Their Army Slaughtered.

Paris, Sept. 7.—The France des Mains publishes the following dispatch from Verona:

"The Austrian authorities summoned all Italian inhabitants of the country around Ronciglione to either go into concentration camps or cross the frontier. The route taken by those who chose to emigrate was lighted by search lights and when the Italians had gone a certain distance toward the frontier a terrific cannonade was opened upon them.

Hesperian Death List Now 33; Sub Guilty, Officers Swear

State Department Does Not Regard Affidavits as Conclusive Proof—Will Make Further Investigation.

BULLETIN.

Berlin (via The Hague), Sept. 7.—The German submarine that sank the Arabic fired the torpedo under the impression that the Arabic was about to ram it, according to a statement today from an authentic source.

This is said to be the substance of the report made by the commander of the U-boat, which was not sunk, as announced in London.

"Military necessity," will, therefore, be the defense which, it is expected, Germany will give as the reason for the sinking of the liner.

Liverpool, Sept. 7.—The following list of missing passengers of the Hesperian was given out by the Allan Line officials here:

Miss Ethel Bannister (Bannister).
Joseph Fowler.
Mrs. H. Fowler.
Miss Emily Morrey.
Miss E. Taylor.
Mr. W. Cowley.
Miss Mary A. Barr.
R. Campbell.
Matie Jenkins (child).
A child (unidentified).
One soldier (unidentified).
The body of Miss E. Carberry has already been landed at Queenstown and identified.

The names of Miss Barr, Mr. Cowley and Mr. Campbell don't appear on the passenger list as given out by the Allan Line Sunday night.

Liverpool, Sept. 7.—The passengers of the torpedoed Hesperian arrived in Liverpool at 10 o'clock tonight. It is officially announced that eleven passengers and twenty-two members of the crew are missing, making the total death list thirty-three.

The nearest approach to positive evidence that the Canadian liner Hesperian was torpedoed was received at the State Department yesterday. In the form of an affidavit given Consul Frost, at Queenstown, by Capt. Main, of the Hesperian, and his three officers.

In the affidavit, signed jointly by the four, the officers asserted that pieces of metal fell upon the decks immediately after the explosion under the bow of the Hesperian; that these fragments were preserved and prove "indubitably" that the vessel was struck by a torpedo.

Nevertheless, so keenly does the administration feel the necessity for caution in reaching conclusions about a matter affecting so vitally the relations between this country and Germany, that the State Department does not accept this affidavit as conclusive proof that the Hesperian was torpedoed. Further investigation will be made.

The reluctance to believe that the German government would ruthlessly violate the pledge given by Ambassador Bernstorff last week is re-enforced by the hope of officials that no further incident be developed to impede what a few days ago seemed to be the rapid progress of the submarine controversy toward a settlement.

This government certainly does not stand waiting for an opportunity to catch Germany in an act of unfriendliness, and the administration is also convinced that Germany is sincerely seeking to end the difficulties between the two governments. Consequently, only upon the most positive proof will the United States take any action on the basis of the conclusion that the Hesperian was torpedoed.

The belief prevails here that in any event, provided even the State Department should be satisfied that the Hesperian was torpedoed, nothing will be done here beyond calling upon the German government for a statement in the matter. This action, if taken, will insure a delay of at least a week, and probably two. In the meantime, it is hoped the German government will clearly demonstrate that which the German Ambassador here has accurately represented the intentions of his government with regard to the use of submarines.

The affidavit of Capt. Main and his officers sets forth that at 8:30 o'clock Saturday night, when the ship received her fatal wound, darkness was fast closing in. They assert that no submarine had been sighted and that no wake of a torpedo was seen. They express the opinion that it was too dark for it to have been seen from the vessel.

The explosion occurred well forward, on the starboard side, about eight feet below the water. A mass of water spouted into the air, pieces of metal fell on the deck, and the characteristic odor accompanying the detonation of high explosives was distinctly noticeable.

The officers assert that the gun on the stern of the Hesperian was of six-inch caliber. This was painted a service gray, they say, and not easily distinguishable under the most favorable conditions. They declare it to be their belief that it could not have been visible to one looking through a periscope, and certainly not in the darkness which existed at the time. It is possible that this gun will figure considerably in the future of the Hesperian case. There is little doubt here but that the gun on the liner's stern might properly be regarded as for defense only.

That Consul Frost has no doubt in his mind that the Hesperian was torpedoed is indicated by dispatches received from him here yesterday.

Accounts received here differ as to the number of Americans on board. Capt. Main and his officers say that only one American was on board, a steward, named Dallas. Consul Frost has mentioned one McMillan, also a steward, as an American. Both were below when the explosion occurred, and their statements are not regarded as of particular value.

KIN DIE IN WAR; KILLS SELF.

New York Merchant Had Worried Over Losing Brothers.

New York, Sept. 7.—Simon Herrstadt, 49 years old, of 111 East Eighty-sixth street, killed himself with a revolver shot in his home today. Up to a recent date he had been a lumber merchant with an office at 60 Broad street.

After the war began he had business reverses. The worry over business, in addition to grief over the loss of five brothers in the German army, affected his health.

This morning Mr. Herrstadt sent his wife out on a pretext and when she returned he found him dead with a bullet wound through his head. He left a note saying he was sorry that he had to go and asking her to take care of their children. The eldest of the children is 12 years old and the youngest 5.

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U. S. WILL TRY OUT NEW GUNS.

U. S. War Games to Test Latest Thing in Aerial Weapons.

The war games of the Atlantic fleet, which were to have been held from September 19 to 30, have been postponed until late in October. The explanation for the postponement is that the Navy Department desires that the fleet shall give more time to the target practice exercises in which it is now engaged. These exercises, it was learned, are being conducted on an extensive scale and involve a number of novel features.

It is understood that the fleet is trying out new guns designed to afford protection from aerial attack. The exercises generally simulate as nearly as possible what would have to be done in actual battle.

Officers decline to give any details concerning the target exercises, merely stating that they are important and will last longer this year than ever before. Fifteen or sixteen battleships will be engaged in the games.

British Fleet Hurls Shells on Germans' Belgian Batteries

London, Sept. 7.—The British fleet, after weeks of comparative inactivity along the coast, today heavily bombarded the German batteries along the Belgian shore as far as Westende.

Tons of metal were hurled upon German gun positions among the dunes in an effort to clear this litter of dangerous opposition in preparation, it is believed here, for an advance from Nieuport on the German right wing positions.

French batteries stationed at Nieuport joined in the bombardment, and the sky was alive with machines directing the fire of the gunners on sea and land.

French aviators today duplicated their raiding operations of yesterday, when a squadron of flyers crossed the Rhine and dropped bombs on Fribourg-in-Breisgau, causing fires. Paris states that this raid was in reprisal for German aerial attacks on Saint Die and Gerardmer.

Another squadron repeated yesterday's bombardment of Saarburg and also dropped shells on railway stations in four other towns behind the German lines in Alsace.

INTERNAL DIFFERENCES IN GERMANY ON SUBS

Rumor Says Von Tirpitz Ordered Hesperian Attack as Challenge to Policy of Chancellor.

Rotterdam, Sept. 7.—There is increasing proof that the differences in German governmental circles regarding submarine warfare against merchant ships will bring about serious internal situation. It is freely rumored in Berlin that the sinking of the Hesperian was deliberately designed by one of the contending parties in order to bring the crisis to a climax.

It has been generally accepted that the Imperial chancellor's policy as laid down in the last note to President Wilson received the grudging assent of Admiral von Tirpitz and his supporters. It is now believed that this was not the case, and that the admiral, even now, is urging a continuation of the submarine campaign, despite the demands of America.

One rumor in Berlin suggests that the torpedoing of the Hesperian was deliberately ordered by Von Tirpitz as a challenge to Von Bethmann-Hollweg. That utter confusion exists on the subject is proved by the varied nature of the statements issued from Berlin today.

One communique to Wolff's bureau is significant as indicating the possible intention to disavow the promise given in the note to President Wilson and to prepare the ground for a complete about face by accusing merchantmen of treachery against the submarines. This communique states that on August 18 a German submarine was fired on by an English passenger ship in the Bristol Channel.

The Vossische Zeitung publishes an article by George Bernhard from which the following are quotations:

"I make no secret of the fact that I and many other Germans would have wished that the declarations of our Ambassador had been other than they were. All means of saving peaceful citizens from attacked ships would have been seized by us if a guarantee had been possible that, by following these laws of humanity, our submarine crews would not have been in danger. Never would a half of a foreign passenger's heard have been endangered if England had not armed her ships and offered rewards to captains to ram the submarines.

"We called in the intervention of America against England in the interests of humanity and of American citizens. In our opinion it is not necessary to alter the basic standpoint towards America and declare that we would not, in the future, torpedo passenger ships without warning. In Germany there is a general wish to keep the relations with America unaltered. It is only on this ground that the declaration is to be understood. It is not in any sense an acknowledgement of guilty acts done, nor a sign of fear or weakness.

"It must be emphatically pointed out that the submarine war against trading ships shall be continued with undiminished power and we hope, with undiminished success."

French Freighter Submerged.

Paris, Sept. 7.—The French steamship Bordeaux, a freighter of the French Line, has been torpedoed and sunk twelve miles off the mouth of the Gironde, on the western coast of France. Her crew were saved and landed by a pilot vessel.

LAID ANTI-ARMS PLOT AT AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S ORDER, DUMBA REPLIES

Unexpected Answer Made to Secretary Lansing Presents Problem to Administration In More Dangerous Form Than Before.

ENVOY'S RECALL NO SOLUTION

Question to Be Debated at Next Cabinet Meeting—Situation Considered Particularly Complicated Because of Present Controversy with Austria's Ally on U-Boat Policy.

Secretary of State Lansing yesterday listened to Ambassador Dumba's explanation of his letter to his government proposing a plan for calling out workmen from the Bethlehem Steel and other munitions plants, the delivery of which into the hands of the United States government has made the Ambassador's position here a delicate one.

The result of the Ambassador's talk with Mr. Lansing was to present the problem to the administration in even more dangerous and complicated form than before. It is understood that the Ambassador informed the Secretary of State that the document in question was not merely a suggestion, but a report to his government; that all that he had done in connection with the plan sketched therein had been done by order of his government.

This statement by the Ambassador, offered in justification and explanation of his letter, was interpreted here as placing a much more serious aspect upon the matter. It is no longer considered a question of this government manifesting its disapproval of the act of the representative of the Austro-Hungarian government, but rather one of holding that government itself to account for what is generally admitted to be, at the very least, a most disagreeable scheme of interference with American industry. It is pointed out that a request for a recall of the Ambassador will hardly satisfy the situation where the Ambassador has merely obeyed the instructions of his government. There is now seen in the incident all the possibilities of a disagreeable, and even dangerous, situation with the Vienna government itself.

Secretary Lansing did not, in his interview with the Ambassador yesterday, in any way commit the United States to a particular course of action in the matter, nor did he set forth any view of the incident on behalf of this government. He merely listened to the Ambassador's statements, and declared that he would be glad to lay them before President Wilson. He assured the Ambassador that no action would be taken by this government until the facts and views presented by the Ambassador had been most carefully considered.

DUMBA STANDS ON LENOX STATEMENT.

It is understood that the question will probably come up at the next Cabinet meeting. The statement was made authoritatively last night that no course of action has been decided upon. In fact, there is good reason to believe that the administration is considerably perplexed at the Ambassador's statement that all he has done he did on instructions from Vienna.

Dr. Dumba himself had no statement to make following his interview with Mr. Lansing. He said that he felt that he had given the American public all it cared to know or would understand about the matter in his statement of Sunday night, issued at Lenox. He did not arrive in Washington until nearly 4 o'clock and left for New York again almost immediately after his visit to the State Department, where he spent something over half an hour between 4 and 5 o'clock.

LETTER WRITTEN AFTER NOTE OF UNITED STATES.

However, the administration itself is in an excellent position to judge of exactly what Ambassador Dumba was proposing to his government. Inasmuch as the State Department is now in possession of a complete copy of the document itself, it was learned yesterday that a copy has been received at the State Department from Ambassador Dumba, to whom it was furnished by the British authorities. The State Department declines to make public the letter or any part of it, taking the view that it is for Dr. Dumba, and not this government, to give to the letter any further publicity.

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